



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2006

Kittitas County FSA News Today

Kittitas County FSA

607 Mt. View Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926 Office Phone: (509) 925-8585 Office Fax: (509) 925-8591

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



Kittitas

County Committee
Tom Bull, Chair
Bart Bland, V-Chair Rick Haberman, Member Barb Weber, Advisor

Office Staff

Betty Cervine, PT Brent Reitmeier, CED

Next COC Meeting

September 13, 2006 9:00 AM

WA State FSA Website

http://www.usda.gov/wa/

National FSA Website

http://www.fsa.usda.gov

National USDA Website

http://www.usda.gov



2006 COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Ballots for Committee Elections in Local Administrative Area #2 will be mailed out by November 3^{rd,} 2006. This year's nominations are for a committee member to represent producers in Local Administrate Area (LAA) # 2. LAA # 2, also known as the Denmark Area, is currently represented by committee member Tom Bull who is eligible for reelection. Ballots must be returned by December 4th 2006. Please remember to sign your ballot return envelope. The following have been nominated and have agreed to serve if elected to the County Committee:

4th generation farmer who lives in the Denmark area. Tom Bull

Tom and his wife raise timothy, alfalfa and oats.

2nd generation farmer who lives in the Denmark area. **Brent De Koning**

Brent and his family raise timothy and oats, corn and wht.

The FSA farmer elected committee system has been a key factor in the successful administration of farm programs. The Secretary of Agriculture considers the committee member very important to the success of the farm programs Congress has provided. The committee members assist in carrying out programs assigned to the FSA committees. Their duties include:

- Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs.
- Keeping the State FSA aware of adverse weather conditions.
- Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee.

The committee is responsible for the overall direction of the operations, the County FSA Office and the administration of the various farm programs at the county level.

Elected county committee members have an outstanding opportunity to serve both farmers and the public. The programs they help administer directly affect the welfare of our farmers.

We are proud of the county committee's record of service to farmers and of this system of farmer-elected leaders. We look forward to welcoming the newly elected member so your vote in very important.

M HUNTING ON CRP ACREAGE

Participants may lease hunting rights, charge fees for access to hunters, or conduct similar hunting operations on CRP acreage. CRP participants are now required to allow the public to hunt on CRP acreage as a part of the contract provisions. Some producers may have entered into wildlife agreements with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife when signing up for CRP, and may have agreed to some type of public access. Please remember that hunting activities must occur during the "normal" hunting season, for pursuit of game that is "normal" to the area, and be consistent with all state laws and bag limitations for the species. Please contact this office if you have any questions.

FAXED SIGNATURES

FSA will now accept faxed signatures without having any authorization on file. Previously, it was necessary for you to have a form on file which authorized us to accept your faxed signature as the original. This requirement was recently eliminated and you can now fax your signed paperwork in to avoid making a special trip.

Kittitas County FSA Office 607 Mt. View Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926



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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) DEADLINE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced a new deadline of November 17th for Washington producers interested in participating in a popular cost-share program called the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS wants to help producers develop a sound conservation plan as the basis for their cost-share contracts. In an effort to provide more time for applicants and NRCS staff to work together on this plan, the new November 17th deadline is critical for producer participation.

EQIP is a voluntary, cost-share assistance program that funds conservation practices including those aimed at helping farmers get better use of irrigation water; managing run-off nutrients and/or animal waste; improving the health of native plant communities; and reducing soil loss. Last year Washington agricultural producers qualified for more than \$20 million in cost-share assistance through the program. EQIP has become a workhorse program for helping landowners apply critical conservation practices to their land. The program provides key technical and financial tools to help producers get practical conservation measures on the ground. Those conservation practices and activities, in turn, protect soil, water, and wildlife resources for all of Washington's residents.

The program is guided by a coalition of local government groups with ties to conservation using a locally led process known as the 'local work group' or LWG. The LWG identifies priority resource concerns and recommends which resource treatment or conservation practices will best fit local needs; cost-share rates; and rules on how the federal dollars will be allocated.

Interested producers can apply at any of the local NRCS field offices. For the location of your local NRCS office, visit the NRCS website at www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov or call (509) 925-8585.

9 USDA PRE-HARVEST GUIDE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released a guide entitled "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006" to help agricultural producers enhance security at the farm level. These practical measures help to protect against natural disasters, as well as the unintentional and intentional introduction of plant or animal diseases.

Food and agricultural bio-security is an important component of USDA's mission. Improving awareness through enhanced outreach and communications is a key element of USDA's homeland security efforts. The voluntary guidelines and checklists were developed based upon recommendations made by producers throughout the U.S. You can pick up your "Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist "2006" at the local FSA office or contact us to mail one to you.

For more information about USDA's homeland security efforts, go to www.usda.gov/homelandsecurity.

NEW TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBER FOR FSA BORROWERS

FSA direct loan borrowers may check on the status of their accounts any time, day or night using a new toll-free telephone number. This number is 1-888-518-4983 and can be accessed in both English and Spanish. Borrowers will be able to check on their personal loan information such as the last date a payment was received, unpaid principal, amount of interest paid and much more. Borrowers accessing the system for the first time will need to provide personal information and create a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to ensure the information remains secure.

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